(b) whether this has been attributed to lack of implementation, effective governance and will; and

(c) if so, Government's views in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India's share has remained static inspite of achieving an average annual growth rate of about 4.5% in the tourist arrivals to the country during the last five years.

(c) Special efforts are being made to boost tourism in India and to increase its share of the world tourist traffic. Special efforts are on to present to the world the wonder that is India—wonder not only in terms of beauties and bounties of nature but also in terms of a civilisation that was bom, bred and beckoned here and also beamed outside its geographical frontiers and left its imprints as far as Bahamia in Afghanistan in North-West and Cambodia in the East, a civilisation that sprang up from an original and powerful mind and created three of the five greatest thought processes in the world, namely, Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism.

Government's overall endeavour is to ensure that the tourist to India should get physically invigorated, mentally rejuvenated, culturally enriched and spiritually elevated. And on return to his country, he should feel India within him.

A new Tourism Policy is in the offing. It would be finalised before the year end. Our Prime Minister, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, in his Independence Day message on August 15, 2001, had declared: "Tourism is a big source of employment generation and foreign exchange earning. Indeed, it is the fastest growing industry in the world today. To achieve this end, we shall unveil a progressive National Tourism Policy before the end of this year."

Rock Garden in Karnataka

587. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal received from the Government of

Karnataka under Government consideration to develop a rock garden on the pattern of Rock Garden of Chandigarh and Shilparmam of Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, how Government propose to help the State Government in their project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI J AGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Development and promotion of tourist places/centres is primarily undertaken by the State Govemments/UT Administrations themselves. However, the Central Department of Tourism provides funds on the basis of projects prioritised every year in consultation with them.

Promotion of Tourism in Karnataka

588. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the projects undertaken by Government for promotion of tourism in Karnataka during the last three years;

(b) the place selected for promotion of tourism in the State; and

(c) the investment made for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Development of tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, Department of Tourism provides Central financial assistance to various State Govemments/UTs on the basis of project prioritised annually in consultation with them.

Details of projects sanctioned during the last three years are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the year	No. of projects sanctioned
I.	1998-99	13
2.	1999-2000	42
3.	2000-2001	19

(b) The State Government of Karnataka has identified 248 places of tourist interest for development and promotion of tourism in a phased manner with Central financial assistance from the Central Department of Tourism.